

**REMARKS**

This Amendment and Response to Non-Final Office Action is being submitted in response to the non-final Office Action mailed August 24, 2005. Claims 1-31 are pending in the Application. Claims 1-8, 11-22, and 25-30 stand rejected. Specifically, Claims 1-8, 11-22, and 25-28 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Makam et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2001/0033570) in view of Lang et al. ("Link Management Protocol (LMP)," IETF Draft, draft-ietf-mpls-lmp-0.2.txt, march 2001) and OIF-UNI-01.0 ("User Network Interface (UNI) 1.0 Signaling Specification," OIF October 1, 2001, pp. 32-34). Claims 29 and 30 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Makam et al., Lang et al., and OIF-UNI-01.0 as applied to Claims 1-8, 11-22, and 25-28, and further in view of Freeman ("Telecommunication System Engineering" by R. Freeman, John Wiley & Sons, 1980, pp. 99-103).

Examiner indicates that Claims 9, 10, 23, 24, and 31 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In response to the above rejections and objections, independent Claims 1, 15, and 29 have been amended to incorporate the elements/limitations of objected to, but otherwise allowable, dependent Claims 10, 24, and 31, which have now been canceled. Claim 13 has been amended to correct a minor typographical error.

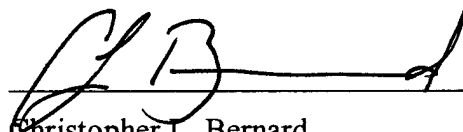
Thus, Applicants submit that the rejection of Claims 1-8, 11-22, and 25-30 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) has now been overcome and respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn and that these claims be allowed.

**CONCLUSION**

Applicants would like to thank Examiner for the attention and consideration accorded the present Application. Should Examiner determine that any further action is necessary to place the Application in condition for allowance, Examiner is encouraged to contact undersigned Counsel at the telephone number, facsimile number, address, or email address provided below. It is not believed that any fees for additional claims, extensions of time, or the like are required beyond those that may otherwise be indicated in the documents accompanying this paper. However, if such additional fees are required, Examiner is encouraged to notify undersigned Counsel at Examiner's earliest convenience.

Respectfully submitted,

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